



R E P R E S E N T A T I V E R U S H H O L T

Report To Central New Jersey

W I N T E R 2 0 0 6

Dear Friend,

The federal government has a responsibility to live up to the promises that it has made – both explicit and implied. For senior citizens, those services are especially critical.

That means protecting Social Security, securing defined-benefit pensions, providing for our veterans, and offering real help for those facing exorbitant prices for prescription drugs. It also means helping communities to integrate seniors by broadening transportation options, encouraging community centers, making health care more accessible, and supporting naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs). I am working in Congress to help achieve these goals.

New Jersey's seniors often call on me to help solve a problem they're having with the federal government, and I want you to know that I am always available to help you. If you are having a problem with a government agency like Medicare, the Social Security Administration, or the Veterans Affairs, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT. I can help ensure that you get the fair treatment you deserve.

Sincerely,

Rush Holt
Member of Congress

P.S. Please take a few minutes to fill out the Congressional Issue Questionnaire enclosed in this mailing. Though not intended to be comprehensive, it can help me understand your thoughts on various issues so that I can better serve you in Washington.

New Jersey Office:

50 Washington Road • West Windsor, NJ 08550 • (609) 750-9365 • Toll Free: 1-87-RUSH-HOLT
(1-877-874-4658)

Washington Office:

1019 Longworth HOB • Washington, DC 20515 • (202) 225-5801

Please visit my Web site at www.holt.house.gov to learn more about what I am working on, and to sign up for my occasional e-mail newsletter, the [eGenda](#).

Congressional Issue Questionnaire

This questionnaire is not intended to be comprehensive and scientific. Rather, it is simply a way for you to communicate your thoughts on various issues so that I can better serve you in Washington. Please feel free to give multiple answers for each question or to attach longer answers.

1. *When you deal with health care issues, what occupies the most time, energy, and money?*

- ☐ Prescription drugs and Medicare Part D
- ☐ Nursing home quality and affordability
- ☐ Home health care
- ☐ Affordable health insurance
- ☐ Dealing with HMOs and their decisions
- ☐ Other _____

2. *If the federal government wanted to help you the most, it should invest in:*

- ☐ Health care access and affordability
- ☐ Social Security, pensions, and retirement security
- ☐ Transportation and infrastructure
- ☐ Environmental protection and historic preservation
- ☐ Fighting crime
- ☐ Tax cuts
- ☐ Public schools
- ☐ Homeland security
- ☐ Independence from foreign oil
- ☐ Other _____

3. *What puts the most strain on your monthly budget?*

- ☐ Health care and prescription drugs
- ☐ Housing and property taxes
- ☐ Federal income tax
- ☐ Debt/credit card payments
- ☐ Transportation costs & energy prices
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other _____

4. *What is currently the most serious threat to American security?*

- ☐ Ongoing insurgent attacks in Iraq
- ☐ Threats from terrorists in the U.S.
- ☐ Nuclear weapons in Iran or North Korea
- ☐ Illegal immigration
- ☐ Dependence on foreign oil
- ☐ Violation of civil liberties
- ☐ Instability in Israel and Palestinian territories
- ☐ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Sign up with your e-mail address and receive weekly updates from me on activity in Congress and in the district.

E-mail _____

**Please mail this questionnaire to me at:
Representative Rush Holt
50 Washington Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550**

Affordable Prescription Drugs

www.holt.house.gov

On January 1, millions of Americans began receiving their medications through the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. The benefit, known as “Medicare Part D,” has been riddled with problems. When Part D was authorized in 2003, I voted against this version of the program because it is insufficient, overly complex, and was written to meet the needs of drug companies and private insurers, rather than Medicare beneficiaries. We could have done – and should have done – much better. Nevertheless, I want this to work as well as possible for America’s seniors.

Unfortunately, many of the most dire warnings of potential problems have come true. Seniors and those with disabilities have been denied medication or overcharged because their insurance could not be verified. Hardest hit have been the 6.4 million low-income Americans eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. The State of New Jersey stepped in to cover these unanticipated costs until reimbursement by the federal government.

The complexity of this new prescription benefit is causing a second problem. Because it is so difficult to navigate, many beneficiaries are likely to miss the May 15, 2006 enrollment deadline. If they do, they will be assessed a late-enrollment penalty. I don’t believe that seniors and persons with disabilities should be assessed penalties because the program that Congress created is unnecessarily complex. As a result, I have cosponsored The Medicare Informed Choice Act, legislation that would provide for open enrollment throughout 2006, delay any late penalties, and allow greater flexibility in changing plans. This and other changes



are needed to provide seniors and the disabled with a meaningful prescription drug benefit.

If you are having trouble navigating Medicare Part D, there are resources available to help.

- Medicare: 1-800-633-4227 or www.Medicare.gov
- NJ PAAD and Senior Gold: 1-800-792-9745 (www.njpaad.gov and www.njsrgold.gov)
- New Jersey Medicaid: 1-800-356-1561
- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselors: 1-800-792-8820
- www.maprx.info
- www.mymedicarematters.com

Also, I am always available to help. You can reach me toll-free at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT. **D**

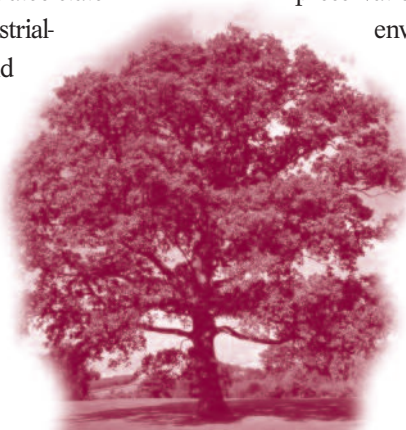
Protecting Open Space

www.holt.house.gov

If you have lived in New Jersey for a long time, you have probably noticed the continually increasing sprawl and traffic congestion throughout the state. New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the U.S. and one of the most industrialized. Preserving the environment and protecting our quality of life has been one of my top priorities as your representative.

I have worked with local officials and communities to encourage “smart growth,” and secured \$2 million for a municipal resource center to help

towns plan development. I have worked to increase funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which helps states to buy property for open space preservation. Responsible stewardship of our environment may also help improve our region’s ability to endure the storms that have caused severe flooding in Middlesex, Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties. The federal government must work more closely with local officials to take preventative measures like protecting wetlands and other vital ecosystems. ▀



DID YOU KNOW...?

The landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 sought to protect minority voting rights, but fraud, intimidation, and procedural hurdles continue to depress voter participation. Rush Holt has introduced legislation with Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) to toughen laws against willful deception and disenfranchisement of voters.



Rush discusses the importance of affordable housing options for senior citizens at the groundbreaking for a new community.

**REP.
RUSH
HOLT**

Fulfilling Our Promise to Veterans

www.holt.house.gov

As the ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan create more veterans every day, it is critically important that we ensure they have access to the health care, education, and other benefits they have earned. Supporting our veterans when they come home is one of the best ways we can thank them for their service.

I am working in Congress to pass the *New G.I. Bill of Rights Act*, legislation that would make needed improvements to veterans' benefits. For example, it would increase funding for VA health care, block fee increases, and cover services for mental health conditions. It would also expand health care for National Guard and Reservists, repeal the Disabled Veterans Tax,

and modernize and enhance job training programs and education benefits for those who have served. Just as service members leave no one behind on the battlefield, we must leave no veteran behind once they come home. ▀



Rush meets with constituents to discuss the importance of balancing security and liberty in reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act.

WORKING FOR YOU...

Last month, 214 constituents contacted Rush for help resolving a problem with a federal agency. Recently, Rush was able to save a South River resident over \$5,000 by correcting an overpayment charge that had been improperly assessed by the Social Security Administration.

**R E P.
RUSH
HOLT**

Town Hall Meetings

www.holt.house.gov

I hope to see you at these upcoming meetings to discuss issues such as Social Security, economic development, hometown security, health care, education, and anything else that may be on your mind.

Monday, February 27

Rumson Borough

7 – 8:30 p.m.

Rumson Municipal Building
80 East River Road

Saturday, March 4

South River

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

South River
Criminal Justice Building
61 Main Street

Saturday, March 4

City of Trenton

1:30 – 3 p.m.

Thomas Edison State College
101 W. State Street

Sunday, March 5

Pennington Borough

1:30 – 3 p.m.

Toll Gate Grammar School
275 South Main Street

Monday, March 6

Manalapan Township

7 – 8:30 p.m.

Monmouth County
Library Headquarters
125 Symmes Drive

*To receive more regular updates
about my activities in New Jersey
and in Washington, D.C.,
please visit my webpage at
www.holt.house.gov and sign up
for my e-mail newsletter.*

REPRESENTATIVE RUSH HOLT

*As your Congressman,
I am here to help.
Contact me any time.*

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To learn more or to send me an e-mail, go to: www.holt.house.gov

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M.C.
PRSRT-STD